

The treated filler [treated with] is then added to the organic compound [is then added], i.e. very low density polyethylene (VLDPE) at a concentration of 5% by weight. The mixture is then blended for 5 min at 160 °C, after which it is extruded or molded around the cable.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2 and 8 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please enter the following amended claims:

1. A cable comprising at least one optical fiber and at least one covering layer comprising a covering material comprising a composite material, wherein:

said composite material is in the form of particles, and said particles have a size of nanometer order and include an organic compound and an inorganic compound;

said inorganic compound (i) is graphite or an inorganic oxide, (ii) has a layered structure, and (iii) has been treated to allow said organic compound to be inserted between the layers of said inorganic compound; and

said organic compound is selected from the group consisting of polymers, monomers, and oligomers, and is inserted between the layers of said inorganic compound.

3. A cable according to claim 1, in which said inorganic oxide is selected from the group consisting of a metal oxide of layered structure and a silicate of layered structure or "phyllosilicate".

3 4. A cable according to claim ²3, in which said silicate of layered structure is selected from the group consisting of mica and clay.

4 5. A cable according to claim ³4, in which said clay is selected from the group consisting of talc, vermiculite, kaolinite, smectite, and mixtures thereof.